

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 ACDA-05

PC-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 IO-10 A-01 OPR-02 OC-05

CCO-00 /112 W

----- 067430

R 261800Z JUN 75 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7306

IMZO RUTAGN/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 787

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 907

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, DM

SUBJ: STATUS REPORT ON GENERAL STRIKE AGAINST PRESIDENT KEREKOU

REF A. COTONOU 892 B. COTONOU 882 C. COTONOU 872 D. COTONOU 862

1. GENERAL STRIKE CONTINUES TODAY, JUNE 26, BUT RATHER UNEVENLY. TENSIONS REMAIN VERY HIGH. TODAY WAS MONTHLY PAYDAY FOR MANY CIVIL SERVANTS; TOMORROW IS THE DAY FOR MOST OTHERS. REPORTEDLY MANY CIVIL SERVANTS SYMPATHETIC WITH THE GENERAL STRIKE DECIDED TO WAIT UNTIL THEY WERE PAID BEFORE LEAVING WORK. ATTENDANCE IN MINISTRIES TOMORROW MAY THEREFORE INDICATE TREND OF STRIKE.

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2. AIRPORT HAS REOPENED WITH SKELETON STAFF.

3. ACCORDING TO GOVT-CONTROLLED PRESS AND RADIO, KEREKOU DECLARED TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS YESTERDAY "HIS DETERMINATION TO CARRY THE REVOLUTION THROUGH TO THE END". COUNCIL TOOK FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL MEASURES:

A. ALL SUPERVISORS IN PUBLIC SECTOR MUST FILE REPORT WITH THEIR MINISTERS WITH NAMES OF ABSENTEES AND THOSE PRESENT WHO ARE NOT PERFORMING THEIR WORK.

B. ALL UNEMPLOYED FORMER MILITARY PERSONNEL SHOULD REPORT TO THE PRESIDENCY, TO SIGN UP FOR RESUMED SERVICE.

C. THE VETERANS' ORGANIZATION SHOULD PLACE ITSELF AT DISPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL COMMAND CENTER. ALL VETERANS NOT MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE URGED TO JOIN.

4. ARRESTS ARE TAKING PLACE. THESE INCLUDE TRADE UNION LEADERS, CIVIL SERVANTS, PERSONS FAMILIAR WITH DETAILS OF AIKPE'S DEATH.

5. REPORT FROM ABOMEY ALLEGES THAT THE PREFECT OF THE ZOU ROBERT VINYOR (AN AIKPE MAN) HAS FLED. ANOTHER ALLEGES THAT THE OLD KING OF ABOMEY HAS DECIDED THAT AIKPE, WHOSE NATIVE VILLAGE WAS NEARBY, SHOULD BE INTERRED IN THE ROYAL BURIAL GROUNDS. IF TRUE THESE REPORTS CONFIRM THE CONTINUED ABSENCE OF NATIONAL AUTHORITY IN THE ZOU REGION.

6. THERE ARE RUMORS THAT THE CURRENT CRISIS HAS CAUSED A SCHISM BETWEEN THE STALINIST AND THE MAOIST ELEMENTS SUPPORTING THE REGIME.

7. FRENCH MILITARY SOURCE INFORMS US THAT THE ONLY DAHOMEAN AIR FORCE DC-3 STILL OPERATIONAL HAS BEEN STANDING BY AT COTONOU AIRPORT, WITH TANKS FULL, I.E. WITH MUCH MORE GASOLINE THAN NEEDED FOR ANY ROUND-TRIP INTERNAL FLIGHT. PRESUMED OBJECTIVE WOULD BE NEAREST GUINEAN AIRSTRIP.

8. COMMENT: SUCCESS OF GENERAL STRIKE, WHICH IS ONL PARTIAL
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SO FAR, HAS BEEN DUE MORE TO THE MASSIVE PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF KEREKOU THAN TO AGITATIONS BY TRADE UNION LEADERS. THERE HAS BEEN SOME AGITATION AND INDEED SOME VERY COURAGEOUS TRACTS AUTHORED BY TRADE UNIONISTS ARE NOW CIRCULATING. BUT THE REAL STRENGTH OF THE PROTEST STEMS FROM SPONTANEOUS PUBLIC INDIGNATION. SENTIMENT IN FAVOR OF OUSTING AND EXECUTING KEREKOU IS VERY STRONG EVUN AMONG PERSONS NOT TAKING PART IN THE STRIKE.
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